

Annual Report

Every year, on or prior to March 31, each Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) must file an annual report with the taxing authorities. This report outlines the programs and expenditures of the previous fiscal year (October 1 through September 30). Our annual report has been filed with the City of Port St. Joe and Gulf County, along with the draft of the FY 2006/2007 audit report. This report is available for inspection at the City Clerk's office, the County Clerk's office or the Redevelopment Agency's office. We will also post this report on the PSJRA website: www.CelebratePortSaintJoe.com.

The report reviews the extensive redevelopment planning process last year, including 44 public meetings attended by over 400 people. It also reviews some of the goals included in the redevelopment plan, such as adoption of design guidelines, introduction of mixed-use (residential and commercial) in the downtown areas, downtown festivals and events, programs to train and assist retailers with marketing and business development, US 98 streetscape improvements, and retail incentive programs.

Last year was a good year for awards, with the PSJRA winning the "Cultural Enhancement Award" for the State of Florida from the Florida Redevelopment Association for the historic banner series. We also closed out our \$50,000 Florida Coastal Management Grant and at the same time the PSJRA wrote the grant application for the Williams Avenue Improvement and were awarded \$100,000 from USDA Rural Development. Last year saw the construction of the Dr. Joe Memorial Parking Lot, new benches and litter receptacles as well as the overhaul of the irrigation and landscaping on Reid Avenue. We also brought retail expert Rick Segel in twice to motivate and educate our retailers on improved marketing, signage, and display for their merchandise. The PSJRA financially supported the formation of the SaltAir Market by funding the research for this significant and essential program through the Waterfronts Partnership.

Last year, our boundaries grew and then retracted and appear to be once again in a position to grow. This is good news for us all.

Board Development was a priority over the past year, and the PSJRA as well as every resident, investor, and business in the area of operation directly benefit from the expertise of our Directors, all of whom serve entirely and tirelessly as volunteers. Currently represented on the board are the following professions: landscape architecture, architectural design, urban planning, development, real estate, banking and finance, journalism, interior design, event planning, engineering, and public relations. We thank our directors Troy White (Chair), Elizabeth Wynn (Vice Chair), Erin Searcy (Treasurer), Annie Sue Fields, Tommy Lake, Joe Rentfro, Steven Rudd and provisional members Patrick Jones and Bill Kennedy.

Please keep Troy White and his family in your most earnest thoughts and prayers as he was involved in a serious accident last week. We will look forward to a steady recovery and will "hold down the fort" until he is able to return to the Chairman seat. We will keep you posted, especially if there is anything we can do to assist during his hospitalization and recovery. For updates, please call Gail at 229-6899.